



Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois

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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

The Taxpayer's Federation of Illinois is a 70 year old fiscal and tax policy public interest group. The Federation develops and promotes sound fiscal policies for Illinois' state and local government. We advocate for policies that encourage job creation and investments that are the cornerstones for the fiscal health of our governmental units.

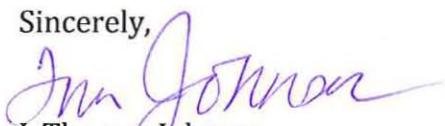
We recognize that Americans, as citizens, must pay taxes to support necessary government services. It is our opinion, however, that low taxes and controlled spending produce a healthy, competitive economic environment. That being said, we are strong proponents of universal broadband across Illinois and the United States but would advocate for a private market solution to accomplish this goal. For that reason, the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois supports the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile and the 97.3% wireless broadband coverage that it promises to deliver pending approval of the transaction.

AT&T's plan for the merger is to invest an extra \$8 billion for network expansion and infrastructure improvements. This investment will spur job growth and provide a timely boost to the state and national economy. Using the private sector to expand the economy through investment is the best solution to this recession and we cannot stress enough how important this merger is for Illinois.

Early in the year, President Obama outlined a plan to spread broadband to nearly the entire nation. Instead of investing public tax dollars, it would be much more prudent to allow the private sector to take the lead in this effort. AT&T has shown the willingness and ability to cover much of the nation with high-speed wireless broadband. The only thing that stands in their way is your pending approval of this merger.

I ask that the FCC grant this merger its approval and allow AT&T to proceed with the progress.

Sincerely,



J. Thomas Johnson
President